

Senate Bill 278

By: Senators Rogers of the 21st, Williams of the 19th, Moody of the 56th, Harp of the 29th,
Staton of the 18th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

To amend Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, so as to provide for graduation from high school in three years; to provide for grants for graduate postsecondary education for a high school student who graduates in three years; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, is amended in Code Section 20-2-140, relating to the establishment by the State Board of Education of competencies and uniformly sequenced core curriculum, as follows:

"20-2-140.

(a) The State Board of Education shall establish competencies that each student is expected to master prior to completion of the student's public school education. The state board shall also establish competencies for which each student should be provided opportunities, at the discretion of the student and the student's parents, to master. Based upon these foregoing competencies, the state board shall adopt a uniformly sequenced core curriculum for grades kindergarten through 12. Each local unit of administration shall include this uniformly sequenced core curriculum as the basis for its own curriculum, although each local unit may expand and enrich this curriculum to the extent it deems necessary and appropriate for its students and communities.

(b) The State Board of Education shall establish a curriculum that allows a student in ninth grade to graduate from high school in three years. The state board shall provide notice to all high school students in this state of the availability of the postsecondary graduate education grants available to students who graduate from high school in three years pursuant to this subsection."

SECTION 2.

Said title is further amended in Part 3 of Article 7 of Chapter 3, relating to the Georgia Student Finance Authority, by adding a new subpart to read as follows:

"Subpart 12**20-3-495.**

(a) There shall be granted to each student who graduates from a Georgia public high school in three years pursuant to subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-140 up to the sum of \$5,000.00 for tuition for graduate coursework at an institution of the University System of Georgia. No student shall be eligible to receive grant assistance provided under this subpart in excess of tuition equivalent to 45 quarter hours. Grant assistance to eligible students under this subpart shall be payable during the student's first year of enrollment in such graduate coursework. The payment of grants to eligible students under this subpart shall be contingent upon the appropriation of funds by the General Assembly for the purposes of this subpart in annual appropriations Acts of the General Assembly.

(b) This Code section shall apply to students graduating from high school pursuant to subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-140 on and after July 1, 2009.

20-3-496.

(a) Any student meeting the conditions of Code Section 20-3-495 may apply to the authority for a grant under this subpart. Such application shall be submitted in writing on forms prescribed by the authority for such purpose. The applicant shall furnish such information as may be required by the authority for determination of eligibility for the grant.

(b) The authority is authorized to prescribe such rules and regulations as may be necessary or convenient for administration of this program and to establish procedures for determination of eligibility of applicants. The authority is also authorized to establish standards and procedures for verifying the student's early graduation from high school."

SECTION 3.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.